



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 503

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6358

House of Representatives, April 15, 2013

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT UNLEASHING INNOVATION IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2013*):

4 (f) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the
5 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the
6 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter
7 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of
8 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
9 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
10 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
11 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
12 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
13 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
14 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a

15 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
16 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
17 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an
18 institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or
19 State Board of Education or regionally accredited, [; or] (2) through on-
20 line coursework that is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant
21 to subsection (g) of this section, or (3) through a demonstration of
22 mastery based on competency and performance standards, adopted by
23 the State Board of Education.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes is
25 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
26 *1, 2013*):

27 (e) Once the program is in operation in the region served by a
28 regional educational service center pursuant to subsection (c) of this
29 section, the Department of Education shall provide an annual grant to
30 such regional educational service center to assist school districts in its
31 area in administering the program and to provide staff to assist
32 students participating in the program to make the transition to a new
33 school and to act as a liaison between the parents of such students and
34 the new school district. Each regional educational service center shall
35 determine which school districts in its area are located close enough to
36 a priority school district to make participation in the program feasible
37 in terms of student transportation pursuant to subsection (f) of this
38 section, provided any student participating in the program prior to
39 July 1, 1999, shall be allowed to continue to attend the same school
40 such student attended prior to said date in the receiving district until
41 the student completes the highest grade in such school. [Each regional
42 educational service center shall convene, annually, a meeting of
43 representatives of such school districts in order for such school
44 districts to report, by March thirty-first, the number of spaces available
45 for the following school year for out-of-district students under the
46 program. Annually, each regional educational service center shall
47 provide a count of such spaces to the Department of Education by
48 April fifteenth.] If there are more students who seek to attend school in

49 a receiving district than there are spaces available, the regional
 50 educational service center shall assist the school district in determining
 51 attendance by the use of a lottery or lotteries designed to preserve or
 52 increase racial, ethnic and economic diversity, except that the regional
 53 educational service center shall give preference to siblings and to
 54 students who would otherwise attend a school that has lost its
 55 accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges
 56 or has been identified as in need of improvement pursuant to the No
 57 Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110. The admission policies shall be
 58 consistent with section 10-15c and this section. No receiving district
 59 shall recruit students under the program for athletic or extracurricular
 60 purposes. Each receiving district shall allow out-of-district students it
 61 accepts to attend school in the district until they graduate from high
 62 school.

63 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Education shall
 64 conduct a study of issues relating to local partnerships for
 65 advancement of the teaching profession. Not later than June 30, 2015,
 66 the department shall submit such study and any recommendations to
 67 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 68 cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the
 69 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-221a(f)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-266aa(e)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	Cost/Savings	Potential	Potential

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill permits local and regional school districts an additional, non-traditional method for awarding credits toward high school graduation. As this section is permissive, it will only result in a fiscal impact to districts choosing to implement it. The fiscal impact incurred by the district is dependent upon the type of method, the size of it, and the number of students affected. For some districts, implementing the additional method could result in a cost, and for others, a savings. Currently, Connecticut has a League of Innovation Schools that seeks out methods for non-traditional credit completion. Those schools include:

Conard High School (West Hartford), East Hartford High School, Edwin O. Smith High School (Mansfield), Farmington High School, High School in the Community (New Haven), Naugatuck High School, New Britain High School, New Fairfield High School, New Fairfield Middle School, Stonington High School, Watertown High School and William H. Hall High School (West Hartford).

Section 2 of the bill eliminates certain requirements related to the Open Choice interdistrict attendance program, which results in no fiscal impact, as the changes are procedural in nature.

Section 3 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to study issues relating to local partnerships for advancing the teaching profession, which results in no fiscal impact as SDE has staff with expertise in this area.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6358****AN ACT UNLEASHING INNOVATION IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill permits an additional, non-traditional method for high school students to earn academic credits towards graduation by demonstrating mastery based on competency and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education. By law, a student may already earn non-traditional credit by completing coursework (1) at a Connecticut public institution of higher education, or (2) online, in accordance with local or regional board of education policy.

The bill eliminates certain requirements related to the Open Choice interdistrict attendance program. This program aims to improve academic achievement; reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; and provide a choice of educational programs for public school students. The bill removes the requirement that each regional education service center (RESC) annually meet with school district representatives. Under current law, this meeting is for school districts to report, by March 31, the number of spaces available to out-of-district students for the coming school year. Furthermore, the bill eliminates the requirement that each RESC provide an annual count of these open spaces, by April 15, to the State Department of Education (SDE).

Additionally, the bill requires SDE to (1) study issues relating to local partnerships for advancing the teaching profession and (2) submit the results to the Education Committee by June 30, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013, except the local partnerships study is effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/28/2013)